the minds of their votaries. Music must ever waft the spirit of man into a region of greater loveliness and grandeur than the actual world; but instead of lifting it to heaven, it has often transported it into scenes where sin is rendered the more fascinating by the dress in which it is presented. Architecture has built temples to God; but it has also built mansions, in which temptation has spread its allurements, and its temples have been as frequently dedicated to superstition as to the true worship of God. There is no one power or element in the world capable of regenerating it. The power which regenerates the world, like that which regenerates individual sinners, must descend from a higher region.

Nay, the very Church of God, and the Word of God, cannot of themselves regenerate the world. They are inadequate for so great a work; because they cannot, by their own power, change human nature. With all our privileges, we feel that there is still something wanting. Our very acquisitions impress us the more with our still remaining deficiencies. We are more astonished at the crimes coming to light in our day, than we are in reading of the same deeds committed in any previous age. The creature is still groaning; and it will continue to do so, till, according to the promise of the Word, the Spirit is poured out on all flesh.

Not that we are on this account to despise or hate our world. We are rather to love that world which God so loved as to give his Son to suffer and to die for it. Whatever the gloomy and disappointed may say to the contrary, this world of ours is a glorious world after all. It is glorious in the displays which it gives of the Divine perfection and beneficence—glorious in its capacity, and the instruments ready for use, Let but human nature, as the root of bitterness, be regenerated; and then all its capabilities, all its acquisitions and improvements, will be devoted

to the most beneficent purposes, and will change the very aspect of the world. The state of the earth depends essentially on the character of its principal inhabitant: and when the character of man is renovated, the state of our world will be renovated also; the agencies, at present conflicting, will become conspiring; that which is barren will become fruitful; and that which is hurtful will become beneficent. We live in the lively expectation of a coming era, when the work which the first man failed to accom-